

Eligibility

A health professional may access the Assistance Program by self-referral, board referral, or referral from another person or agency, such as an employer, coworker, or family member. Admission to the Health Professionals Assistance Program is available to individuals who, at the time of application:

- Hold licensure as a health care professional from a participating board in South Dakota;
- Are eligible for and in the process of applying for licensure from a participating board in the state of South Dakota;
- Accepted as a student in a program leading to licensure as a health care professional;
- Have not diverted controlled substances for other than personal use;
- Have not been accused of sexual misconduct;
- Have not been terminated from a similar program in this or another state for noncompliance; or
- Their continued practice does not create too great a risk for the health care consumer.



For Additional Information Contact:

Health Professionals assistance program

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Health Professionals assistance program



A Multidisciplinary Diversion Program for Chemically Impaired Health Professionals

Participating Boards
Nursing
Dentistry
Pharmacy
Medical and Osteopathic Examiners
Certification Board for Alcohol
& Drug Professionals

Health Professionals Assistance Program

The State of South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program provides a non-disciplinary option for participating health licensing boards to deal with impaired regulated health professionals who recognize their illness of Chemical Dependency and the need for continuing care and / or practice limitations. The program is confidential and professionally staffed to monitor the treatment and continuing care of regulated health professionals who may be unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety, if their illness is not appropriately managed.

Program Services

The Health Professionals Assistance Program develops individualized Program Participation Agreements that monitor compliance of the chemically impaired professional to the prescribed program. Monitoring can be facilitated in the following ways:

- Referrals for evaluation and / or treatment
- Documented continuing care plan
- Work Site Monitors
- Support Group attendance
- Practice Restrictions
- Unscheduled Drug Screening
- Filing of Reports necessary to document compliance
- Contracts for Program Requirements

Mission

The South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program is dedicated to enhancing public safety and support for regulated health professionals by facilitating the early intervention, treatment, and safe return to practice of health professionals whose functioning is impaired by the use of alcohol and / or other drugs.

Philosophy

The Health Professionals Assistance Program believes that the harmful involvement with alcohol and other drugs causes a negative impact on the physical, mental, social, vocational, intellectual, emotional and spiritual areas of an individual's life. The Program recognizes that impaired health professionals are individuals who have dedicated their lives to helping others and are now in need of help; and acknowledges that facilitating the acquisition of this help must remain a primary goal of the Health Professionals Assistance Program. The Program follows a non-punitive approach, in which the program staff works in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, other sanctions which a health related board may impose upon the individual health professional.

The Health Professionals Assistance Program acknowledges a primary concern for public safety. The program attempts to ensure public safety by providing a voluntary, confidential alternative for those chemically impaired health professionals who might otherwise go undetected.